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	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE SYSTEM	Subject Number: REG-8-1 Transmittal Number: 865 Date: SEP 13 1996

Subject: Oversight of State Regulatory Programs

Approval: Robert J. Uram **Title:** Director

Directive REG-8, dated June 20, 1996, is revised to clarify the responsibilities section with regard to OSM's oversight responsibilities, including conducting oversight inspections, and to clarify certain guidance in Appendix II.

Specifically, the following changes are made:

1. The Responsibilities section (4.a. on page 2) is revised to add an introductory statement and the responsibilities of Field Office Directors or equivalent (4.a.(4) on page 3), is revised in two paragraphs (a) and (d) to read as follows:

   a. Responsibilities. In exercising its oversight responsibilities, OSM is committed to work with States and other interested parties seeking consensus while maintaining its independence and objectivity to carry out its duties under SMCRA.

      (4) Field Office Directors or equivalent (FODs).

      (a) Plan and conduct oversight activities, including inspections, independent reviews and technical analyses, and prepare related documents and reports in accordance with the guidelines in this directive and other national and regional policies and procedures.

      (d) Interact on a routine, periodic basis with citizens, State and local coal associations, environmental organizations, and other groups to determine their areas of concern. To further this interaction, each Field Office will conduct an outreach program within the State(s) to solicit comments from the public and interested parties regarding the oversight process, recommendations for additional review topics for the evaluation year, and suggestions for improvements of future annual evaluation reports. These comments will be major factors in determining where OSM will focus its limited oversight resources and what aspects of the State program will be reviewed.

CHANGE NOTICE

2. In Appendix II, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING, Section II, Procedures, Paragraph A. General Approach, the fourth sentence is changed to read, "Instead, OSM oversight will focus on the on-the-ground results/end-result success of the State program in achieving the purposes of the Act, preventing problems from developing, and correcting problems when they occur."

3. In Appendix II, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING, Section II, Procedures, Paragraph C. Measurement and Reporting End Results, the following sentence is added to the end of the paragraph. "Federal inspections and technical reviews are key components of the evaluation and measurement process of on-the-ground results."

4. In Appendix II, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING, Section II, Procedures, Paragraph C. Measurement and Reporting End Results, 2. Bond Release (page II-5), add the following sentences to the end of the sentence immediately before the discussion about 1. Land form/approximate original contour (AOC) that reads, "In conducting this evaluation, OSM will adhere to the following guidelines for each of the four areas." The additions read, "OSM will conduct sufficient inspections and technical reviews to evaluate the application of State programs and determine on-the-ground success. For example, success of AOC is measured based on the actual on-the-ground results."